

# OWC

## OREGON WHEAT COMMISSION

### PLEASE SUPPORT HB 2616

HB 2616 before you today seeks to make technical corrections to ORS 578 as a result of amending the Oregon Grains Commission into the Oregon Wheat Commission during the 2011 legislative session.

First and foremost, this bill addresses issues surrounding the ability of the commission to ensure compliance with the assessment provisions of ORS 578. It establishes responsibility to growers to ensure payment of the assessment in circumstances when they sell grain to out-of-state elevators. It also reinstates the ability to the Oregon Wheat Commission to levy penalties and civil actions should a handler or first purchaser of product choose to not collect and remit this assessment. It also provides a definition of grains to define what products the Commission may choose in the future to assess.

Lastly, HB 2616 provides the Wheat Commission with two options for their reserve funds. Present statute limits these funds to accounts no greater than \$250,000 requiring the Commission to have numerous accounts holding a year's worth of reserve operating funds. New language will allow the Commission to aggregate these funds in a major financial institution or to invest in the state investment pool in like manner as cities and counties.

The Oregon Wheat Commission requests your support of HB 2616.

From the desk of Representative Brian Clem

